



THE COMMITTEE ON

WAYS & MEANS

WAYS AND MEANS TRADE ACTIONS 2018

[Committee holds bipartisan meeting with United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer](#)

- In February 2018, The Ways and Means Committee held a bipartisan meeting with the United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, to discuss how we can continue to grow jobs, paychecks, and our economy through strong trade agreements.
- *"We know in this increasingly connected and changing world, it's not enough to buy American. We have to sell American throughout the globe... Ambassador Lighthizer shares our commitment to modernizing NAFTA and other trade agreements to make sure Americans get the best deal possible."*
-Chairman Brady

[Brady, Neal, Reichert, and Pascrell Urge Senate to Consider USTR Nominees](#)

- In February 2018, The Ways and Means committee wrote a bipartisan letter to Senate Leaders urging them to bring under consideration the nominations for senior positions at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) as soon as possible.

[Bipartisan Legislation to Provide Tariff Relief, Cost Savings to the American People](#)

- In February 2018, The House passed bipartisan H.R. 4979 to provide a three-year renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences program, a longstanding U.S. trade preference program that delivers tariff relief and cost savings to American businesses, workers, and consumers across the country.
- *"The GSP program reduces tariffs – which are essentially taxes – on thousands of products from around the world."* -Chairman Brady

[Chairman Brady Statement on Bipartisan Trade Meeting with President Trump](#)

- In February 2018, Chairman Brady and other Ways & Means Committee Members attended a bipartisan, bicameral trade meeting with President Trump.
- *"President Trump understands the need for strong collaboration between Congress and the Administration given our Constitutional role in trade policy. We are dedicated to working together on a positive, pro-growth trade agenda that benefits my constituents in Texas and Americans across the country."* -Chairman Brady

Brady Leads Bipartisan Congressional Delegation to 7th Round of NAFTA Negotiations

- In March 2018, a bipartisan Congressional delegation led by Chairman Brady went on a two-day visit to Mexico City for the 7th round of NAFTA negotiations.
- *"I am confident that by insisting on tough obligations – ones that are strictly enforced and hold our partners accountable through effective and binding dispute settlement – we will conclude a final agreement with big wins for the American people."* -Chairman Brady

110 House Republicans Urge President Trump to Target Tariffs to Bad Actors While Protecting America's Jobs, Manufacturers, and Consumers

- In March 2018, House Republicans wrote a letter to President Trump urging targeted action against China and other unfair trading partners and expressing concerns that broad tariffs could harm America's jobs, manufacturers, and consumers.
- *"We're writing today to say: we stand with you in taking tough action to keep America safe and our economy strong. At the same time, we're urging the President to tailor these tariffs so American businesses can continue to trade fairly with our partners, sell American-made products to customers all over the world, and hire more workers here at home."* -Chairman Brady

GOP to USTR: Maintain Key NAFTA Provision

- In March 2018, 103 Republican lawmakers joined a letter led by Ways and Means and Senate Finance members that urged U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Robert Lighthizer to maintain investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

W&M Holds Hearing with USTR Ambassador Lighthizer

- In March 2018, the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing to question U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Robert Lighthizer on the Administration's trade policy agenda - specifically negotiations to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and actions against China.
- *"We're confident in your ability in renegotiating NAFTA and other agreements to create a level playing field for American farmers and workers and businesses because when you do, we win. There's no doubt that there's strong support for your very aggressive stance in opening these markets and modernizing NAFTA."* -Chairman Brady

W&M Members Call for Improvements in Trade, Tariff Actions

- In March 2018, the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing with Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross the section 232 determinations on steel and aluminum.

- *“Tariffs are taxes – plain and simple – on American job creators and consumers. Their scope and duration should never exceed what is needed to accomplish their goal.” – Chairman Brady*

[Brady, Reichert Statements on U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement](#)

- **In March 2018, Chairman Kevin Brady and Subcommittee on Trade Chairman Dave Reichert applauded improvements to the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS).**
- *“The improvements to KORUS as well as the agreement on steel will strengthen the economic ties between our two countries and will be beneficial to American consumers, workers, and manufacturers.” -Chairman Brady*

[Hearing Held to Address the Impact of Tariffs on American Jobs and the Economy](#)

- **In April 2018, the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing to hear from business leaders about how the Administration’s proposed tariffs are affecting their day-to-day operations and long-term planning.**
- *“I continue to believe it is vitally important for us to use a targeted approach in enforcing our trade laws, whether it is the Section 232 or Section 301 tariffs. China’s distortions to the steel and aluminum market and its IP theft and forced technology demands are global problems that ultimately require global solutions.” -Chairman Brady*

[Ways and Means holds hearing on STOP Act](#)

- **In April 2018, Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee held a hearing on legislation to block synthetic opioids from the international mail system by requiring the transmission of advanced electronic data (AED) on international mail.**

[Ways and Means meet with Vice Premier Liu](#)

- **In May 2018, Chairman Brady and a bipartisan group of House Ways and Means members met with Vice Premier Liu to discuss US-China efforts to reduce trade barriers, increase intellectual property rights protection, and create a level playing field for American companies and workers.**
- *“It’s absolutely vital that we get our trading practices with China right—and that starts with China reversing its unfair trading practices.” -Chairman Brady*

[Ways and Means holds bipartisan meeting with Lighthizer, urging no tariffs on U.S. allies](#)

- **In June 2018, the Ways & Means Committee had a bipartisan meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to discuss recent trade developments with NAFTA and China.**
- *“I continue to urge the Administration to extend tariff exemptions to Canada, Mexico, the EU, and other important partners while fixing the*

broken product exclusion process needed by our manufacturers and workers to remain competitive.” -Chairman Brady

[Brady, Bishop, Reichert, Pascrell, Faso Applaud House Passage of STOP Act](#)

- In June 2018, the House passed H.R. 5788, the *Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act* – bipartisan legislation to prevent the shipment of synthetic opioids into the United States through the international mail system.
- *“Under the bipartisan leadership in the House by Rep. Bishop, Rep. Faso, Chairman Reichert, and Rep. Pascrell, the **STOP Act** is part of Congress’ unprecedented efforts to fight the opioid epidemic in America and keep our families, friends, and neighbors safe. Led by Senator Portman and Senator Klobuchar, I look forward to swift passage in the Senate.” -Chairman Brady*

[Brady applauds Administration’s decision to use CFIUS](#)

- In June 2018, President Trump announced that the Administration will rely on the Congressional legislative process as the basis for action against foreign investment that affects U.S. technology by revamping the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).
- *“To address these threats, the House and the Senate each have passed legislation to comprehensively revamp our CFIUS process. I’m glad that the President will be using that modernized and robust process to target and thwart such behavior.” -Chairman Brady*

[Chairman Brady Calls for Trump-Xi Face to Face Meeting to Craft Fair Trade Deal with China](#)

- In July 2018, Chairman Brady and Trade Subcommittee Chairman Dave Reichert called for US and Chinese leaders to meet and renegotiate a trade deal in response to the US announcement of Section 301 action toward China.
- *“With this announcement, it’s clear the escalating trade dispute with China will go one of two ways – a long, multi-year trade war between the two largest economies in the world that engulfs more and more of the globe, or a deliberate decision by President Trump and President Xi to meet and begin crafting an agreement that levels the playing field between China and the U.S. for local farmers, workers, and businesses.” -Chairman Brady*

[Trade Subcommittee holds a hearing on “The Effects of Tariffs on U.S. Agriculture and Rural Communities”](#)

- In July 2018, the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee held a hearing for lawmakers to hear directly from farmers and ranchers across the country about the impact recent trade actions from the Administration and U.S. trading partners have had on their businesses.

Walorski Leads 149 Colleagues in Bipartisan Letter to Ross Urging Against Section 232 Auto Tariffs

- In July 2018, Ways and Means member Jackie Walorski led 17 House Ways and Means Committee Members and over 140 bipartisan Members of Congress in a letter to Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross advising against imposing trade restrictions on imports of autos and auto parts through its investigation under Section 232.

Brady, Reichert In sist Administration Comply with TFTEA Deadline

- In July 2018, Chairman Brady and Trade Subcommittee Chairman Dave Reichert wrote to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator Neomi Rao, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan to express agreement with a recent federal court order that the Administration's failure to meet a deadline required by Section 906 of the *Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act* (TFTEA) was unlawful and urge issuance of the regulations without further delay.
- The missed deadline violates a statutory mandate and stands to hurt U.S. manufacturers and exporters.

Hearing on Product Exclusion Process for Section 232 Tariffs on Steel and Aluminum

- In July 2018, the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee held a hearing to learn from U.S. companies participating in the product exclusion process to obtain relief from steel and aluminum tariffs and identify improvements that are needed to that process.